

# WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!"

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 1852.

## CONGRESS.

This day begins the second week of the seventh month of the present session.

The business capacity of the two organized bodies of which Congress is composed does not appear to us to have very materially improved since our last reference to it. The Senate actually does make some progress in its proper duties, and the House of Representatives tries to do so; but the latter, though it gets into Committee of the Whole occasionally on bills of real consequence, finds the Presidential Election still a stumbling-block in the way of its progress. The consequence of which is that the "Deficiency Bill," as it is called, introduced some four months ago, has not yet become a law, nor can any one with any certainty conjecture when it will be such. After this week, however, the *Debate* in Congress on the merits of candidates for the Presidency will *abate* by the success of that subject; and in the next week it may be hoped that the "Deficiency Bill" will be passed, and the different Departments of the Government be at length relieved from the disgrace of protested bills and payments refused for want of funds, which have been cases of every-day occurrence for weeks and months past.

The interest which, next to that of the Nominees for the Presidential Office, has most monopolized the time of both Houses, is that of the *Public Domain*, for the general as well as particular appropriation of which there has been, for several months past, and in all probability is yet to be, a persevering contest. Within the last week the House of Representatives, after having sent to the Senate a bill for a sweeping gratuitous distribution of the Public Lands, has taken a stand against bills which had already passed the Senate, making special appropriations for Internal Improvements. This opposition may, we presume, be attributed to mixed motives on the part of the majorities on these questions; that is to say, in part to a determination to force the Senate to a passage of the bill professing "to encourage agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and all other branches of industry," by granting the public lands to all comers; and in part to a desire to reduce to system the appropriation of public lands for public improvements, so as to equalize among the several divisions of the country appropriations for such objects, &c. Meanwhile there has sprung up in the House of Representatives a new proposition, to grant to the States certain quantities of the Public Land, to be applied by the States themselves to Internal Improvements, Education, &c.—a proposition perhaps more strictly in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution than either special appropriations or the latitudinous donation proposed by the House bill now before the Senate.

The safest as well as most constitutional disposition of the Public Lands, we believe, would be to leave them as they are, under the admirable system which has hitherto worked so well, and to distribute the revenue from sales of them, when the Treasury can dispense with it, among the several States, in proportion to their population, to be disbursed for objects of general importance within their respective limits. Next to this, so far as we have been able to consider it, the idea of a distribution of a certain quantity of the public lands, in due proportion among the States, to be used for similar objects within their separate jurisdictions, appears to us to be less liable to exception than either of the other plans.

Bearing upon the general subject of the National Domain, or rather upon the questions which are successively springing up in regard to it, we have just met, among the newspaper articles on the subject, with one which comes nearer to our views of the matter than any thing which we have yet seen. It is from the pen of a distinguished and venerable inhabitant of the city of Philadelphia, and is deeply imbued with the spirit of a genuine and enlightened philanthropy. Our readers will thank us for placing it before them, as follows:

### FROM THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER.

No one can be more desirous than the writer of these lines that any measures should be adopted which would tend to equalize throughout society the comforts, luxuries, and pleasures of life; but experience has shown that nothing is less beneficial to human prosperity than indiscriminate charity. To bestow charity on those who are capable of supporting themselves by labor is to encourage idleness. Of course legislation which has for its object to mitigate the sufferings of people who are by age, sickness, lameness, blindness, &c. unable to earn their living, is always best performed by those municipal corporations whose knowledge of the objects of public charity may be more minute and precise than that of a State Legislature, and a *fortiori* more competent than a National Legislature like that of the United States. As the whole spirit and wording of the constitution under which these States are associated conveys the idea that Congress was to perform only those duties which concern the whole Union, it must be especially unconstitutional that duties belonging from their nature to cities, counties, or districts in the States severally, should be superseded by national legislation.

But were it proper that, in lieu of being occupied with these sufficiently numerous and arduous cares which concern the whole nation, Congress should take upon itself the assistance of our poor—hospitals, and other charitable institutions, it certainly would be highly improper that they should make able bodied men any charitable donation of any kind. It would be absurd, that, instead of assisting the widow, the orphan, the old, the lame, the sick, or blind, they should seek out men in the vigor of manhood to bestow charity on.

It is only persons of the last mentioned class that can derive benefit from the Homestead bill, now before the United States Senate; and among that class only a minority; since to go on a plot of land in the wild country, and get it into cultivation, requires a method, skill, and energy of character which are possessed by comparatively few even among our native population.

Independently of the unconstitutionality of the power which is thus proposed to be exercised, as a trustee of property for the benefit of the whole Confederacy, I do not perceive how it can be equitable to bestow it on a particular class of persons who are not objects of charity.

Holding up such inducement to foreigners to emigrate is only to awaken ideas which cannot be realized. Europeans who are unaccustomed to use the axe, or the employment of oxen in clearing of wild land, may be led to sink a small capital without being successful as settlers.

As this giving away of new lands would depreciate those now in the hands of former settlers who have paid for theirs, it would hardly be just to them. Equitably there would be a claim on the Government to refund all that it has received heretofore for lands. How can it be just to have obliged all the settlers of former years to pay for their lands, and now allow others to get lands for nothing? Should the Government pursue this giving away policy now, ought they not to repay the principal and interest of all which they have heretofore sold?

Would it not be preferable that Congress should divide

the wild lands in due proportion among the States, to be expended in schools, colleges, railways, canals, and mail roads, which would contribute to the intellectual improvement, the reciprocal, social, and commercial intercourse of the whole? Public works give the right kind of encouragement to the laboring class, in general not to any one in particular, by furnishing employment and good wages.

In building ships for our navy, to protect our extensive and almost defenceless seacoast, how many trades, how many operatives would receive liberal employment? While not only our leading politicians, but likewise our cabinet ministers, are holding the language of defiance, if not of menace, to the despots of Europe, ought we not to have a navy commensurate with our big words?

Was there ever any thing more inconsistent than our passion for extended domain, and indisposition to a proportionate augmentation of our means of defence? To afford this defence is one of the primary and obvious duties of Congress; how, then, can it be right, while this is unperformed, to seek other modes of appropriating our national wealth?

Since copying the above, we have met with an article in another newspaper, which, whilst it affords a contrast so marked as to place in bolder relief the beauty of the foregoing extract, represents, in deeper coloring than our pen has yet attempted, the disorganizing and dangerous principles of the Socialists, whose agrarian teachings, as we have already said, have unconsciously influenced the passage of the so-called "Homestead Bill" in the House of Representatives, and are now busy in urging its passage through the Senate.

The article to which we now refer appears in the "Times," a paper published at Williamsburg, (near and much connected with the city of New York.) It is addressed to an honorable Senator of the United States from a Western State, and bears the signature of a proper name, unknown to us, and which there is no necessity to publish, the writer's objects and arguments being all that we desire to bring particularly to the notice of our readers. For the same reason we withhold the personalities of the article, contenting ourselves with making the following extracts from it, which are, however, to the extent to which they go, strictly literal:

Extracts from a Communication in the "Williamsburg Times" of Friday last.

"Wealth and intrigue on his part, and activity and talents on yours, will be unavailing, if you attempt to defeat this great and good measure. It has got an impetus now by the action of the lower House. Do not resist that impetus. It will crush you, it will crush any man, or any party even, that may attempt to resist it.

"Revenue." You well know that we are squandering more money every year for unnecessary purposes than is received from the public land sales. Your heart, your honest convictions, will come over to my side when I contend that a virtuous Government would retrench those unnecessary and corrupt squanderings, and let the settler have the lands on the conditions fixed by their Creator. The price of sweat and toil that the poor settler must pay is price enough. If you tried to till the land under a broiling sun you would say so too.

"You profess to be a Democrat—to act with the Democratic party. Now, listen to me: if you attempt to defeat this bill, and if you get the Democratic Senators to act with you against it, I tell you you will lose New York State in the coming election. The Land Reform Democrats of this State hold the balance in their hands. The man who writes this is one of that class of Democrats, and he is acquainted with forty thousand of the same kind in the central counties of the State—never to talk of innumerable stragglers in the cities and towns. These men will punish any party—even if it call itself 'Democratic'—that will refuse to let the poor citizen dig out from the earth a morsel of food for his children.

"You have heard, even in Washington, of the Land Reform Farmers of central New York. Some of you were talking about disfranchising them six or seven years ago, but you didn't. Those men never marched up to the polls without leaving their mark behind them. You might afford to despise the pioneers of Reform that are to be found in almost every town and city. You might hope to drown their voices by the clamor and clash of the electioneering strife. But, sir, there are in the counties of Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Albany, Schoharie, Delaware, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego, and Schenectady a multitude of men, in number like the sands on the seashore, far withdrawn from this clamor; men over whom you have no control; men who recognize the authority of party wire-pullers just as much as they recognize the authority of King Victoria or Queen Albert; men who will kick the three-legged stool from under you, and join in the general laugh when you are sprawling in the gutter; that is, provided you and the Democratic Senators refuse to the poor homeless citizen a homestead on his own lands.

"But who is the writer of this letter? Some poor friendless devil, who is restless and discontented through the pressure of his own wants. Living all the way off on Long Island, what does he know about the farmers of the central counties of New York?"

"Sir, if I did not really wish to keep on good terms with you, and more especially with the Democratic party, I would leave those questions to be answered on the second day of next November. As it is, let me inform you that I am rich enough to spend your year's salary in a cause like this; that the farmers know me well; that, after an absence from among them of seven years, the very announcement of my name will gather them in thousands to meet me in public deliberation; that if I make out to convict you of treason against the Republic, of a determination to bring in European landlordism and plant it down on American soil, then, sir, those farmers will pass sentence on you, and they are the very men who will be out on the 2d of November to see the sentence executed.

"And, sir, you and the Democratic Senators will require to act quickly and ungrudgingly in this matter. Men of thought and patriotism, as well as men of nakedness and natural wants, feel insulted by the rotten timber, exhumed from the graves of past strife to construct this Baltimore platform of yours. Not a stick from our perennial forests; not a blade of grass from the untrodden prairies; not a stalk of wheat from the cheerful farm. Dead National Banks, skeleton Tariffs, buried Mexican wars, ghosts of Internal Improvement, phantoms of Economy never to be realized, a sham fight about slavery!—these are the materials upon which we are all to rally, are they? But I forget. The office-hunters in Baltimore did actually think it worth while to mention the public domain. They have declared that they will use it for 'national purposes'—i. e., they will sell it to Tom-the-devil he will buy, and shovel the proceeds in along with the fifty millions of indirect taxes, to increase the gettings of themselves—the office-hunters.

"Ah, sir! you have need to look sharp—you and the other Senators of the 'Democratic' party. These doings at Baltimore—this impudent declaration (reiterated by the office-beggars of New York City) that the public lands are to be kept shut from our citizens till they gather gold to meet the wants of capitalists loafing on shore and diplomatic obtuseness; this impudent declaration, sir, has roused a deep resentment in the minds of all men who think clearly and mean honestly. Make haste, then, and disarm that resentment. If you do not, it will meet you face to face in the 'day of battle and of war.'"

In a letter from the Treasury Department, received in the Senate on Monday, in answer to a resolution of that body, an estimate is contained of the Commerce of the Straits of Florida, which, large as our notions of the extent of that commerce have been, fairly distances them all. From the best data in possession of the Department it is calculated that the amount of Ocean Commerce of the American ports on the Gulf, inward and outward, foreign and domestic, exceeds two hundred and fifty millions of dollars per annum, besides that of the Mexican and other ports on the Gulf.

## GEORGIA RESOLUTIONS.

The following are the principal resolutions adopted by the late Whig State Convention of GEORGIA, of which we have before published a brief Telegraphic account:

Resolved, That the safety and honor of the South and the integrity of the Union are dearer to us than the triumph of any party or the success of any candidate; and therefore we instruct our Delegates to insist upon a recognition of the compromise measures by the National Whig Convention as a full and final settlement of all the questions therein embraced, and to make such recognition a condition precedent to any participation by them in the nominations of said Convention.

Resolved, That MILLARD FILLMORE, for the ability, impartiality, and patriotism manifested by him in his administration of the General Government, deserves the confidence of the whole country. He has been tried and found faithful to the Constitution and the supremacy of the Laws; faithful to the preservation of the Union, and to the constitutional rights of the South; and we hesitate not to avow our preference for him over all other candidates.

Resolved, That we have entire confidence in DANIEL WEBSTER, and, while we profoundly admire his vast and stupendous intellect, we cherish the warmest feelings of gratitude to him for his eminently able and uncompromising defence of the Constitution and the rights of the South, and we would delight to honor him.

We understand that the Chevalier DE SODRE, who has been for some time at the head of the Brazilian Legation in Washington, had an interview with the Secretary of State a day or two since, to announce his recall.

We join most heartily with the Journal of Commerce, of New York, in the very just tribute which, in the article we have copied from that paper, it has paid to that gentleman and his amiable family.

We have reason to believe the statement true, as given in the Journal of Commerce, that the Secretary of State did authorize our Minister at Brazil to intimate to the Brazilian Government the wish of ours that Mr. DE SODRE might be made their Minister here; but it is possible the other Minister, Mr. MOREIRA, was appointed before Mr. WEBSTER's letter reached Rio.

The Whig Convention of WEST FLORIDA met at Uchecoon on the 24th ultimo, and nominated GEORGE F. WARD as their candidate for Governor, and EDWARD C. CABELL for re-election to Congress. Resolutions were adopted strongly endorsing the compromise measures, and recommending Mr. FILLMORE for the Presidency. Gov. THOMAS BROWN, of Florida, was declared to be their first choice for the Vice Presidency; and if his nomination could not be procured, then the Hon. WILLIAM A. GRAHAM or Hon. JOHN J. CRITTENDEN.

## LATE FROM THE PLAINS.

MR. HUBBELL has arrived at St. Louis from Santa Fe. All was quiet in New Mexico. Gov. CALHOUN was about starting for St. Louis. The Indians on the Arkansas were about deamping for the California road to intercept the emigrants. He met the U. S. troops at Diamond Springs, getting along slowly; they had lost twenty-five men by cholera.

SIR J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT, present Governor of Newfoundland, is appointed to succeed the late Sir John Harvey as Governor of Nova Scotia.

## RECKONING CHICKENS.

Hatching time has not quite arrived for the election eggs, yet the New Hampshire Democrats are already counting their chickens. The Concord (New Hampshire) Statesman gives the following description of the state of affairs among the expectants of office in that quarter:

"A crazier set of people were never abroad than some now to be found at the capital of New Hampshire. Foreign ambassadors, heads of departments, consuls, and charges d'affaires, to say nothing of heads of bureaus at Washington, and the endless array of minor officers, are plenty as 'leaves in Vallambrosa.'"

It is the opinion of the Statesman that there are at least fifty in Concord who have not slept a wink since Friday night, so full have their heads been of ambassadorships and other golden visions—all to be realized when General Pierce has the good fortune to "get in."—*Baltimore American*.

The spread of the *Rapping* delusion is among the oddest facts of the age. New disciples, or more properly victims, record themselves in print almost daily. Under the impulse of spiritual converse, in all sorts of difficult and impossible feats, such as writing editorials, or telegraphing the latest intelligence from the world to come, or prognosticating the election of Mr. PIERCE, and all with the gravest faces conceivable. Members go aside and locate themselves in a spiritually-elected community on the mountains. Newspapers, in which you might reasonably hope to find tidings of the present and future as well as of the past, greet us from all directions. The abundance of the literature devoted to the new faith denotes the rapidity and sturdiness of its growth.

But the oddest feature of all—even going beyond the canal decision which the spirit of Mr. CALHOUN recently rapped out to an honorable Judge of Appeals—is the introduction of the rappers into the pulpit, and the employment of ghosts to propagate the gospel. We read as follows in the *Marshall* (Wis.) Democrat:

"Some of the clergy in the eastern part of the county (Clarke) say they are inspired by the spirits, and that their sermons delivered out of the pulpit are not their own, but that they are the instruments through which the spirits operate upon the mass of the people. We understand that these divines, or the spirits through them, say that the Millennium has commenced, and that in less than five years the wicked are to be swept from the face of the earth, and the righteous are to inherit it forever. It is reported that one of the divines said, on Sunday last, while preaching to a crowded house, that not more than a dozen of his audience would ever pass through the shades of death. It is also said that the spirits have informed the people, through the mediums, that the old way of baptizing is all wrong, and that they should use water instead of wine for sacramental purposes; and we are informed that the people are following the directions to that effect. A new church has been organized, called the Church of Christ, and a service of worship, which commenced one week ago, and is to continue until the spirits tell them to stop. We are told that some are so infatuated with this new religion that they do not de a single thing without first consulting the spirits. The excitement of the neighborhood is great, and some of the best men in the county are strong believers."

Without presuming to comment upon the fresh development, we would put it to all religious bodies of consistent faith and order if this is exactly the right sort of thing? Does not it amount to heresy? Is there any reason why unlicensed ghosts should have access to and rappings in a pulpit, wherefrom unlicensed but corporate preachers are zealously excluded? Indeed, the difficulties springing from this most heterodox innovation strike us so seriously that we forego no less than a subversion of all respect and devotion to the only true faith, unless the church door be firmly shut on the demons. There is a rational suspicion about that the ghosts are at best no better than they should be, and many of the most communicative of them were once men of notorious loose opinions. Neglect a decided stand against them at once, and we shall be favored presently with pious homilies from Vanini, Holbach, and Paine.

[New York Times.]

The new *Monkey* entertainment, imported by Mr. Niblo for the New York fashionable, was exhibited at the Astor Place Opera House on Monday last week. When the curtain rose "a parcel of well-dressed and comical looking men were seen at dinner, waited upon by beautiful and the gentility and perfect self-complacency with which they went through the trying motions of the meal would have done no discredit to fashionable society. Afterwards they danced on the slack rope, much in the style of the great Ravel family; and then they resolved themselves into a circus troupe, having dogs for their horses, in which capacity they did the most astonishing things. Their efforts were received with unbounded laughter and applause."

## POSTAGE TO AUSTRALIA, VAN DIEMAN'S LAND, CHINA, AND THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

We are authorized to say that heretofore all letters and newspapers for Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, (Port Phillip,) Van Dieman's Land, and New South Wales (except letters mailed to be sent by private ship) will be forwarded by the packets of the Australian Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company on the third of every alternate month, commencing 3d June, 1852, from Plymouth, via the Cape of Good Hope; and that the single rate of postage (to be prepaid on letters sent and collected on letters received) between the United States and said colonies will be forty-five cents instead of fifty-three cents, as heretofore. The postage to North Australia is unchanged.

Letters for any part of Australia sent in the mails to England, thence to be forwarded by private ship, must be prepaid thirty-seven cents the single rate. If sent via San Francisco, thence to be dispatched by private ship, the inland postage only to that port (six cents the single rate) must be prepaid, leaving the ship postage, whatever it may be, to be paid at the point of delivery.

In like manner letters and newspapers sent via San Francisco for China must be prepaid to San Francisco, and the ship postage has to be paid at the point of delivery. At any of the British colonies in China, the ship postage on either a letter or newspaper is understood to be four cents; so that the entire postage on a single letter to those colonies, via San Francisco, is ten cents only.

To the Sandwich Islands the single rate of letter postage is eleven cents, six of which only must be prepaid in the United States.

## MR. MEAGHER, THE IRISH EXILE.

FROM THE COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER.

A PUBLIC RECEPTION DECLINED.—Our prediction that no one would be more astonished than Mr. MEAGHER himself at the proposition of the Common Council to give him a public reception has been verified. Yesterday afternoon the committee waited upon him to tender the hospitalities of the city; and Alderman OAKLEY presented a certified copy of the resolutions adopted by both Boards of the Common Council, briefly urging the acceptance of the proffered honors in some complimentary remarks. Mr. MEAGHER replied in a truly eloquent and manly strain. He said:

GENTLEMEN: Had the effort in which I lost my freedom been successful, the honors now tendered would not surprise me. But it was otherwise. Far from realizing, it obscured the hopes which accompanied and inspired it. The ending suddenly in discouragement and defeat. This the world knows. This you yourselves must inwardly admit, though the goodness of your nature will seal your lips to the admission, being fearful of the disparagement it would imply. \* \* \* For the little I have done and suffered I have had my reward in the penalty assigned me. To be the last and humblest name in the litany which contains the names of Runnet and Fitzgerald names which wake notes of heroism in the coldest heart, and stir to lofty purposes the most sluggish mind—is an honor which compensates me fully for the privations I have endured. Any recompense of a more joyous nature it would ill become me to receive. Whilst my country remains in sorrow and subjection, it would be delicate of me to participate in the festivities you propose. When she lifts her head and nerves her arm for a bolder struggle; when she goes forth, like Miriam, with song and timbrel, to celebrate her victory, I too shall lift up my head and join in the hymn of freedom. Till then the retirement I seek will best accord with the love I bear her, and the sadness which her present fate inspires. Nor do I forget the companions of my exile. My heart is with them at this hour, and shares the solitude in which they dwell. The freedom that has been restored to me is embittered by the recollection of their captivity. While they are in prison, how can I rest upon my spirit, and the thoughts that might otherwise be so cheerfully with me. It is painful for me to speak. I should feel happy in being permitted to be silent. For these reasons you will not feel displeased with me for declining the honors you solicit me to accept. Did I esteem them less, I should not consider myself unworthy, nor so conclusively decline to enjoy them. The privileges of so eminent a city should be sacred to those who personify a great and living cause—a past full of fame, and a future full of hope—and whose names are prominent and imperishable."

In continuation of this response, Mr. MEAGHER eulogized America and American institutions, and spoke with so much feeling that several of his hearers are said to have been moved to tears. We need scarcely say how greatly Mr. Meagher's judicious conduct in this particular has heightened our respect for him. It was to be feared that imprudent advisers might prevail upon him to accept an ovation which might serve the sinister purposes of others, but could add nothing to his fame, and which would probably have injured him in the estimation of all practical, right thinking men. But he will now enjoy all the honor which can possibly be derived from such a compliment, with the additional credit of being as modest and sensible as it was before known that he was daring and enthusiastic in behalf of his country's independence. It would be well for other distinguished patriots from abroad to take a lesson from Mr. MEAGHER. Older men have manifested much less wisdom.

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.—M. DE TOQUEVILLE, in a discourse last month before the French Academy in Paris, asserted the absolute antiquity of all the new-fangled theories in regard to the regeneration of society, &c. All the vagaries of Socialism were of remote record. Aristotle carefully investigated, when he wrote his Treatise on Politics, two hundred constitutions under which nations had lived before his time; he found an identity of human nature in all ages and countries, which has been since quite as evident or demonstrable. The omniscient Greek concluded that the mob or extreme democratic rule was the worst of all tyrannies.—*Mobile Register*.

## THE TEHUANTEPEC ROAD.

Late Mexican newspapers contain a proclamation of MARIANO ARISTA, President of that Republic, giving publicity to the following decree of the General Congress, relative to the construction of a canal or road over the Isthmus of Tehuantepec:

Art. 1. The Government will conclude a contract, or promote the formation of a company, who, preferring natives in all cases, or of foreigners, or of both, for the opening by canal, railroad, or wagon road of a line of communication between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, by the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The Government shall not have the power to execute any contract unless it be previously approved by the General Congress.

Art. 2. The Government, in exercising the powers conferred to it by the previous article, shall be bound by the following conditions:

1. That the contract shall contain no clause which may, by the rights which it concedes, demands from foreign Governments against the Republic, nor impair in any way the full and prompt exercise of its sovereignty in the said Isthmus of Tehuantepec.
2. To give the enterprise more efficiency and constant protection, the Government shall be one of the parties to the contract.
3. The interoceanic communication by the Isthmus shall be free and open to all the nations of the globe.
4. In order to make the benefits of the communication stable and perpetual, the Government shall negotiate with the Powers linked to the Republic by treaties for the express regulation of neutrality of the right of way by the Isthmus in case of war.

## CREW OF AN AMERICAN SCHOONER MURDERED.

SALEM, JUNE 11.—By the barque Saidbeen Sultan, arrived here to-day, we have received from Capt. J. F. WEBB, U. S. Consul at Zanzibar, the following letter, giving an account of the destruction of an American vessel, and the murder of the crew by the natives of Madagascar:

ZANZIBAR, MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1852. The American schooner *Crew* of the West, of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, of sixty-seven tons burden, Joseph T. Waldron, master; mate, the brother of the master, and crew of two seamen and one boy, on a trading voyage for tortoise shells, &c., was cut off at Nosimaty, Madagascar, between the 25th and 28th December, all hands murdered, and the vessel burnt. The French authorities at Nosimaty had fifteen persons confined in irons, supposed to be implicated in the affair, and would await some action on the part of the United States Government. A particular account of this affair has been forwarded to the Secretary of State.

## LATE FROM CALIFORNIA.

The steamship *Albatross* arrived at New York on Saturday with the California mails to the 18th May, and upwards of five hundred passengers. She also brings nearly two millions of dollars' worth of gold.

Our latest papers from San Francisco are dated on the 10th of May. The principal feature of the news is relative to the difficulties between the native miners and the Chinese, in relation to which the Alta California of the latest date remarks:

"The excitement in many parts of the mines in opposition to Chinese labor among our mountains is evidently on the increase. Mass meetings have been held at the north and south, corresponding committees appointed, and in general steps taken to clear the entire mining regions of the Celestials. Several very interesting communications have appeared in the public prints, purporting to emanate from the Chinese, showing the benefits to be derived from their great emigration to this country, and the importance of the consequent trade which will spring up between California and China.

"But these appear to have little effect upon the miners, who seem bent upon the work of expulsion. From statistics carefully prepared, it appears that the number of Chinese who arrived here between February, 1848, and May, 1852, is 11,053. The number that have returned or died is estimated at 107, so that that class of our population may be set down in round numbers at 12,000. Of these, seven only are women. In addition to this, large numbers are expected. It is proposed in many portions of the mines to sell their claims, give them the proceeds, and tell them to leave. The Chinese are of mild character, and should the Americans push matters to the extreme, it is not anticipated that much or any bloodshed will ensue."

The Alta California says that some of the leading and most intelligent of the Chinese residents have transmitted circulars to their countrymen at home, advising them of the prejudices that have lately sprung up against them, of the severe measures which have been adopted throughout the interior to drive them from the mines, and warning them to cease emigrating to California, as they will no longer be welcomed.

The paper quoted from suggests that this may result in the adoption of retaliatory measures by the Chinese Government against Americans residing and trading in China.

## FROM THE MINES.

In relation to the general prospects in the mining districts the Sacramento Union remarks:

"The advices from all parts are highly favorable. The miners are very generally receiving fair remuneration for their labor, and, while there are fewer instances of extraordinary individual fortune, the average yield per man is evidently increasing by the application of science and well-constructed machinery."

"Instead of the occupation being, as formerly, a kind of roving, hap-hazard excursion, it is now regarded as a regular legitimate pursuit, upon which men enter with the same views of permanency and system as upon any other avocation in life. In placer or surface mines, which two years ago were the support of machinery, then in use would not have yielded an income equal to the expense of living, miners are now making from four to ten dollars per day. Earth that will yield two cents per bushel, or, in mining phraseology, a cent a bucket, can be very profitably worked."

## INDIAN AFFAIRS.

We do not perceive that there have been any further difficulties with the Indian tribes. There was a fight between two parties of them between Bidwell's Bar and Stringtown on the 10th of May. About three hundred were engaged in it, and several were killed.

## FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

The United States revenue cutter *Frolic* arrived at San Diego on the 24th of April.

The command of Major FITZGERALD arrived at San Diego on the 19th of April from the lagoons of the Gila and Colorado. The San Diego Herald gives the following sketch of the operations of the detachment, and the state of affairs in the district in which it had been operating.

"The dragoons have been absent from here between two and three months, and in performance of the duty assigned them, in common with the infantry, have encountered privations of no ordinary nature, and we rejoice to have it in our power to say that officers and men submitted to them without murmur, thus proving that the moral of the troops is yet intact."

"When attacked by the Indians in March, Major FITZGERALD's command consisted of but twenty-four privates, not sixty, as erroneously stated by us. The effect of this severe contest was to drive the Indians up the Colorado. The troops followed to the distance of seventy miles, burning on their way numerous villages, destroying crops and firing upon the enemy as they crossed the river. Their course was telegraphed by the signal fires of the Indians all the way up, supposed to be due to the treachery of the Cocopas, who profess a friendship for the Americans."

"The headquarters of the well-known chiefs, Cavello-en-pelo and Towarro, who reside nearest the Mohaves, and about seventy miles from the junction of the Gila and Colorado, were destroyed. To reach this point the troops were compelled to cross the distinct mountain ranges, an entirely rocky and destitute of vegetation. The trip occupied eight days, and during the two last the command subsisted on mule meat."

"Mountain Indian videttes were seen every day; they and the signal fires indicated the approach of our men, and the main body of the Indians, thinking to escape, took to the river and swam across, hoping thus to double on their enemy. Anticipating this maneuver, Major HENTZELMAN, the commanding officer, had sent up a small command under Capt. STEELE, on the opposite bank. Capt. Steele succeeded in killing and wounding several."

"When Major FITZGERALD started from Camp Yuma, a train of wagons was sent along for Ogden's landing to bring up supplies. The Government animals on the Colorado are suffering a great deal from the want of forage. The green willows which edge the stream of that country are now their only subsistence."

"It is a crossing of the desert with the animals furnished him—sixty or seventy miles of the route without water, and no transportation to carry it. Some of the mules were without a single drop of water for two days and three nights. The energy of the depot quartermaster at this place will, it is to be hoped, soon remedy most of the obstacles now encountered on the desert."

"We rejoice to see that the up-country papers have announced a cessation of hostilities on the part of the southern Indians. All the officers of the army engaged in their suppression unite in the expression of the opinion that the harassing border Indian war will for a long time to come continue to furnish them with ample professional employment."

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature of California adjourned on the 5th of May, after a session of four months. The "Alta California" thus speaks of its nets:

"The early part of the session was marked with unavailing delay, and, even after the seat of government was temporarily removed to a habitable spot, the wheels of business moved very slowly, until the State adjourned to the adjournment. Then followed three memorable days in the history of California legislation, during which short period some seventy bills of all descriptions were hurried through great confusion. Whatever may be said of the quantity, the quality of some of them was most detestable. Fat officers for friends arose in a trice all over the State, at a wave of the magic legislative wand. The Governor was given the appointment of various unnecessary Flour Inspectors to be posted on the coast. For the interior he was allowed to name some twenty-five or thirty friends to take the oaths, forthwith—one to be located in each county. And, in short, a big stick was made to throw Democratic officers into every section of the State, at no menial salaries, in view of the coming Presidential campaign."

The number of acts passed during the winter was one hundred and seventy, and the number of joint resolutions twenty-seven.

A LADY FRIGHTENED TO DEATH.—The Rockingham (Va.) Register states that Mrs. Patrick, wife of Mr. Jacob Dieck, residing near Mt. Crawford, in that county, was so frightened to death a few weeks since. Her little daughter for sport threw a tree-frog upon her lap, which began jumping up towards her face, and so frightened her that she died in two or three days.

A fishing party recently captured three sharks off Castle Pinckney, Charleston, one of which measured nine feet six inches in length.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION OF A BOMB SHED.—At South Boston, a few days ago, a loaded bomb-shell was about to be melted, when all the powder in it was supposed, was removed. A wedge was then driven in it to split it, but at the first blow a terrible explosion took place, shattering the shed, and killing Frank Keyser, the ground, and throwing fragments of the shell in every direction. One piece flew across the channel a distance of an eighth of a mile, and the wedge was picked up by the explosion. The shed was badly shattered, and the windows in the vicinity were badly broken, and fragments passed through the slatted roof of an iron foundry. The bomb was a 64-pounder, about 8 inches in diameter and 12 inch in thickness.

## EUROPEAN AND INDIA NEWS.

The London correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser recapitulates, in his letter of the 1st instant, the foreign intelligence brought by the Liverpool steamer *Baltic*, as follows:

LONDON, JUNE 1, 1852. Since the departure of the *America* on the 29th ultimo the details have been published of the fall of the Burmese ports of Martaban and Rangoon. Later intelligence has also been received from the Cape of Good Hope, where the Kaffir war is apparently approaching a termination. In other respects there has been nothing to